

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

TO AMEMBASSY PARIS

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 3303

UNCLAS BRUSSELS 1921

FOR AMERICAN BATTLE MONUMENTS COMMISSION FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR MARR BE

SUBJECT: ROAD WIDENING PROJECT, ARDENNES AMC

REF: PARIS 5483

1. I AM PERSONALLY AWARE OF THE DIFFICULTIES WHICH THE ROAD-WIDENING PROJECT IN FRONT OF THE AMERICAN MILITARY CEMETARY AT NEUVILLE-EN-CORDROZ CAUSES BOTH TO THAT CEMETARY AND AS A MATTER OF PRINCIPLE FOR SIMILAR CEMETERIES WORLD-WIDE. I AM ALSO CONVINCED THAT BELGIANS DO NOT SEE THEIR ROAD-WIDENING PROJECT AS EITHER PRECEDENT SETTING OR AS A DEROGATION OF THEIR GRANT OF THE NEUVILLE-EN-CONDROZ LAND TO THE UNITED STATES, DESPITE OUR EFFORTS TO CONVINCE THEM OF SUCH. ON THE OTHER HAND, THE BELGIANS WILL FEEL BOTH MORALLY AND LEGALLY RESPONSIBLE TO TAKE CORRECTIVE ACTION IN REGARDS THE ENTRANCE. AT THIS POINT, I BELIEVE WE SHOULD FOCUS OUR EFFORTS ON FINDING A MUTUALLY SATISFACTORY SOLUTION AND AVOID DISCUSSIONS OF PRINCIPLE WHICH MIGHT RESULT IN AN UNSATISFACTORY FAIT ACCOMPLI.

2. I HAVE THEREFORE HAD A NOTE TO THE FOREIGN MINISTRY PREPARED, BASED ON THE SPECIFIC DATA FURNISHED IN PARA 2 REFTEL AND FURTHER MAKING THE POINTS GIVEN IN PARAS 4 AND 5 OF REFTEL. THESE APPEAR TO ME TO BE MINIMUM CONDITIONS USG COULD ACCEPT AND WE WILL CLOSELY FOLLOWUP AND KEEP YOU INFORMED. COPIES OF NOTE WILL BE MAILED TO YOU AFTER IT IS DELIVERED. FIRESTONE

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